competencies have helped the country in saving of foreign exchange in many critical areas. However, it is not always feasible and economically viable to go for indigenous development of all systems needed by Services.

(b) DRDO has already established institutionalised mechanism to pool national resources available with universities, academic institutions, R&D laboratories/centres and the industry, both in public and private sector for undertaking Research and Development leading to production of weapon systems.

Denial of visa to sikh evacuees from Afghanistan

*48. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sikh evacuees from Afghanistan languishing in Pakistan refugee camps are being denied visa to enter India; and

(b) how many applications have been received in this regard and what is the hitch in doing the needful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the information available with Government of India about 275 Afghan Sikh/Hindu families are presently in Pakistan with the intention of travelling to India. As and when Indian High Commission in Islamabad refers applications for issue of visas, Government of India is issuing visas after usual checks. So far Government of India has issued visas for 110 cases on receiving their applications through Indian High Commission, Islamabad.

Villages in Madhya Pradesh not connected with all-weather roads

*49. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise and panchayat-wise number of villages in Madhya Pradesh which have not been connected with all weather roads;